International Border Between India and Pakistan

1635. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to accept 'The Line of Control' into the international border between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether several eminent personalities have urged Government to declare LOC into the international border between India and Pakistan; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) Government have been from time to time statements attributed to quarters within and outside India outlining such approaches for resolving the J&K issue with Pakistan. Some of these statements have suggested a solution to the J&K issue which, inter-alia, may involve recognition of the LDC as the international border between India and Pakistan. However, Government do not have under consideration any such proposal.

Conference to discuss Challenges of Changing World

1636. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Conference to discuss "Challenges of the Decade in Changing World" has been organised at New Delhi in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of participants;

(c) whether it has been suggested that India has to take some measures to adjust to the realignment of forces in Asia and become part of the action in the realm of economic restructuring taking place in the region;

(d) whether Government propose to take some action on these suggestions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Government is not aware of any such conference having taken place at New Delhi in recent past; many conferences are organised by private agencies without the knowledge of Government. Such a conference was not organised by Government, nor sponsored by a Government agency.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Demand to bring out White Paper on Pakistan's Involvement in Weakening India

1637. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to expose Pakistan's concrete involvement in unleasing violence and trouble to weaken India;

(b) if so, whether there is persistant demand to bring out a white paper detailing Pakistan's involvement in aiding, abetting and fomenting communal passions within India; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Government, have and will continue to apprise the international community of the factual position regarding Pakistan's involvement with terrorism directed against India.

(b) and (c) Government have seen some media reports suggesting the publication of a white paper. This proposal is not under the consideration of Government of India.

Government is fully resolved to deal firmly with terrorism and will take all measures to safeguard national security.

Supply of Ballistic Missile Components to Pakistan by China

1638. SHRI G.G. SWELL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the US has offered to lift sanctions against China if it desists in future from supplying ballistic missile, components to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, whether this is a positive development for US, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Government are aware of news reports to this effect.

(b) Government have not made any statement on these reports as this is a matter of negotiation between the US and China. Government view the transfer of offensive weapon systems to Pakistan with concern and constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and remain committed to take necessary steps to safeguard India's national interests.

Visit of FICCI Sponsored Indian Industry Delegation

1639. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a FICCI sponsored Indian industry delegation recently visited Newzealand.

(b) if so, whether the delegation skipped many scheduled meetings in Newzealand and its members went sight-seeing thereby hurting the sentiments of the host country;

(c) whether as a fall-out of the Indian delegation's cavalier action, section of the Newzealand industry are feeling humiliated determined not to receive Indian trade delegation in future; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to mllify Newzealand and to restore relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Sir, it was a delegation sponsored by the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry and not FICCI, that visited Newzealand recently.

(b) Sir, the High Commission of India reported to the Ministry of Commerce and this Ministry the delegation had missed some meetings fixed by the Mission at the request of the Gujarat Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

(c) Sir, the Caterbury and Auckland Chambers of Commerce expressed their resentment over the cancellations to our High Commission.

(d) Sir, we would continue to impress upon the Newzealand Chambers of Commerce and Industry and its businessman that our delegations are focussed and serious about their visits and a one time aberration due to unforeseen circumstances does not constitute the general behaviour of Indian business delegations. Our High Commission will exert all efforts to ensure that future delegations are received by Newzealand businessmen.

Census of Food Processing Industries in Bihar

1640. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have done any census of the existing food processing industries in the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;